

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
11 RYE STREET
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Rebecca Talamini, Tanya Unsworth, RuthAnn Lansner, Heather Spencer, Nicole Vacila and Jim Richards (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
Members Absent: Richard Leborious
Others: First Selectman Jason Bowsza, Town Attorney Joshua Hawks-Ladd, Sarah Muska, Charles Nordell and Cathy Simonelli
Press: None

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Ms. Rebecca Talamini called the Special Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting: <http://zoom.us/j/3326833563>; Meeting ID: 332 683 3563

II. Attendance

All in attendance other than Ms. Tonya Unsworth, Mr. Jim Richards and Mr. Richard Leborious who have indicated they will be attending, but just a little late.

It was **MOVED** (Lansner) and **SECONDED** (Spencer) and **PASSED** (4-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, N. Vacila. R. Lansner, and H. Spencer; Opposed: None) that the Commission recess the Special Meeting to conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m

III. Public Hearing

Ms. Talamini read from the public hearing notice as follows:

“The Charter Revision Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via a Zoom Conference Meeting. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain public input and comments on the changes that have been proposed to the Town’s Charter.”

Ms. Talamini commented that the Commission has been reviewing the Charter for the last three to four months, specifically Section 8 which discusses the budget process and the ultimate 2% increase. Other changes have been made were minor grammatic changes. The

revisions the Commission is proposing have been filed with the Town Clerk with the public hearing notice so as the public would be able to see the changes that are being proposed to the document. Those revisions are tracked on the document, so it is easy for the reader to spot them. Attorney Joshua Hawks-Ladd, Town Attorney, has reviewed those changes and is also in attendance if anyone should have any questions or comments for him.

Mr. Jim Richards entered the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Talamini asked if anyone would like to make a comment.

No comments were heard.

First Selectman Mr. Jason Bowsza commented to leave the public hearing open for a few minutes as there was a bad accident on the highway and traffic is terrible. The hearing should be left open to see if anyone should come on-line in the next five minutes or so.

A brief discussion was held if anyone from the community would like to comment via email, members of the Commission would be happy to respond.

Ms. Sarah Muska of 25 Maple Avenue addressed the Commission. She noted she reviewed the website and has been following the meetings. She understands if the budget does not pass after the third referendum, then the Board of Finance makes the decision. She wanted to know if that was correct. She was told it was.

It was **MOVED** (Richards) and **SECONDED** (Spencer) and **PASSED** (5-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, J. Richards, N. Vacila, and R. Lansner; Opposed: None) that the Commission adjourn the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

It was **MOVED** (Spencer) and **SECONDED** (Lansner) and **PASSED** (5-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, J. Richards, N. Vacila, and R. Lansner; Opposed: None) that the Commission reconvene the Special Meeting at 7:09 p.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was **MOVED** (Vacila) and **SECONDED** (Lansner) and **PASSED** (5-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, J. Richards, R. Lansner, and H. Spencer; Opposed: None) that the Commission approves the Minutes of May 19, 2020 Special Meeting as presented.

V. Public Participation

None.

VI. Review Charter

Ms. Rebecca Talamini inquired with Mr. Bowsza and Attorney Hawks-Ladd the next steps in moving the recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Attorney Hawks-Ladd indicated that he reviewed the statutes that governed the next steps and those statutes are Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-187 through Section 7-191. He noted the Commission must follow those statutes to move this forward to the Board of Selectmen. He showed the statutes on the screen for everyone to read as he explained and discussed those statutes. He noted that Section 7-191 discusses the public hearing that is held and after the public hearing the next step is to provide the Town Clerk the draft of the document and have the Town Clerk submit it to the Board of Selectmen for a public hearing. The public hearing must take place within 45 days after the submission. Once the public hearing takes place, the Board of Selectmen have 15 days to accept the draft document or to recommend changes. If the Board of Selectmen accepts the report, then the report becomes final and the next step is approval. If the Board of Selectmen rejects the report, it is sent back to the Commission for revision changes. Those changes are made and sent back to the Board of Selection for a public hearing and if accepted, then it is submitted to the election official to schedule an election. If the election is a special election, 15% of the electors must come out to approve it. If it is a general election, it is a simple majority of all electors. Attorney Hawks-Ladd also explained within thirty days of the Board of Selectmen approval, the public must put on notice and the entire charter must be published in a local newspaper noticing of the proposed changes.

A brief discussion was held.

It was **MOVED** (Spenser) and **SECONDED** (Lansner) and **PASSED** (5-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, J. Richards, N. Vacila, and R. Lansner; Opposed: None) that the Commission will submit the draft report of the Charter Revision Commission to the Board of Selectmen by submitting the draft report to the Town Clerk and requests that the Town Clerk transmits such report to the Board of Selectmen.

The discussion continued regarding to the next steps and timetables per the statutes. It was also asked if the Commission will be needed any longer as their job is complete. It was noted that if the Board of Selectmen accept their recommendations, the Commission will not longer be needed. However, if the Board of Selectmen send back changes or corrections, then the Commission would have to meet again.

VI. Adjournment

It was **MOVED** (Lansner) and **SECONDED** (Spenser) and **PASSED** (5-0) (In favor: R. Talamini, R. Lansner, J. Richards, H. Spencer and N. Vacila; Opposed: None) that the Charter Revision Commission adjourns the Special Meeting of June 16, 2020 at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz
Recording Secretary